



**Read: Mark 5:25-34**

*Jesus restores the dignity of a person who has become invisible to everyone else.*

Jesus the teacher and miracle worker attracted crowds wherever he went. On this day he is stopped in his tracks by someone touching him. We are not told her name; only what she has suffered. This woman has been made an outcast because of her condition and has been reduced to a life of poverty and despair. Called out from the crowd by Jesus, she can no longer hide. All eyes are on her as she publicly tells her story. Significantly, Jesus affirms her as a daughter of God. Her shame is lifted from her: she can finally go in peace.

Every human being is created in the image and likeness of God. No one is 'just a statistic' in God's eyes. There are many people or groups whom we exclude or have no contact with, whether unwittingly or intentionally. Often we only acknowledge them when talking about 'them'. Although we don't really know them, our judgments may be based on little more than myth, gossip or stereotypes.

**Suggestion:** Prayerfully spend some time in a place which speaks to you of poverty and deprivation. If possible, spend time with someone who is socially excluded or stigmatised, someone who is disadvantaged because of their social, economic or ethnic 'difference'.

**Pray:** What is your prayer in this place of deprivation and poverty?

**Reflect:** What depresses you and inspires you in this place?

**Act:** Can you do anything practical to deal with deprivation and poverty?